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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2001 2007

10 January 1962

TO:

Director of Naval Intelligence  
Department of the Navy  
Attention: Mr. George Donnell

FROM:

SUBJECT: WESCH, Prof. Dr. H. Ludwig

1. Reference is made to the request dated 13 November 1961, subject as above, whose name you desired checked against the files of this office. The files contain the following information concerning an individual or individuals who may be identifiable with Subject.

2. Several reports from the files of a predecessor organization, summarized herewith, reflect that one Professor Dr. Ludwig WESCH was born 14 April 1908 (or 14 April 1909, according to one report). He was appointed Untersturmführer (SS 2nd. Lieutenant) on 20 April 1935 and was promoted to Obersturmführer (SS 1st. Lieutenant) on 30 January 1936. In 1938, WESCH was assigned to the Sicherheitsdienst (SD-Security Service of the State and Party). A report dated 11 October 1944 indicated that WESCH had obtained the rank of Hauptsturmführer (SS Captain). Several reports indicated that WESCH was assigned Nazi Party No. 245,488 and SS No. 47448. Various reports also revealed that he was awarded the Nazi Party decoration known as the Totenkopf Ring (Death's Head Ring). WESCH was married and reportedly lived in Heidelberg, Germany, in January 1940. Information contained in a report dated 11 May 1943 indicated that Professor Dr. Ludwig WESCH was Director of the Institute for International Postal and World News, External Institute of Heidelberg University; and lecturer at the Philipp Ludwig Institute. According to source, WESCH, SS-SD member, was interested in high school matters (sic), news matter (sic), and public opinions and sentiments, especially in academic circles. Reportedly, Professor WESCH was a specialist in news matter, and source believed that the SD considered him an expert on such matters as the installation of broadcasting stations.

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3. According to a report dated 15 June 1955 from an unevaluated source, Dr. WESCH had been affiliated since 1954 with Deutsches Magnosit A.G., a subsidiary of Österreichisch-Amerikanische Magnosit A.G. of Badenthein, Austria. The latter company was largely owned by General Refractories of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The firm Deutsches Magnosit A.G. was underwriting Dr. WESCH's research on infra-red and radar camouflage paint. According to Source, Professor WESCH persuaded Deutsches Magnosit A.G. to rent (in January 1955) Villa Baruch in Heidelberg, Germany, and establish a Forschungsinstitut where WESCH and other associates were continuing this research. Reportedly, Dr. WESCH was considered to be the "turn-coat" type, always in search of the "best deal". WESCH worked with Deuligne (Rhinsland - Saar) and with the French after World War II and helped develop some of the near-infra-red equipment used by the French in Indo-China.

4. Information obtained in January 1959 from a usually reliable source indicated that one Professor WESCH, whom Source described as a well-known Nazi during World War II, and who came out "relatively unscathed from the de-Nazification proceedings", re-appeared in 1954 as director of a research institute somewhere in Wurttemberg which supposedly was the research laboratory for a small firm in Munich. Source stated that he later heard that the Munich firm and the research laboratory may have been cover organizations for the West German Intelligence Service.

5. [ ] was no record of any current operational interest in Subject.

RID/CE: JWE/BS/dmcg

Based on: CSOI-3250 dated 26/10/55  
RMA-40694

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